Supervision of Private Hospitals

1105. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Indian Express dated August 25, 1992 captioned Mushrooming of corporate Hospitals, Urgent Government intervention needed;

(b) what are the steps proposed to regulate private hospitals in an effective manner all over the country;

(c) whether a permanent regulatory body would be established to supervise and to enforce regulations all over the country; and

(d) if not, what steps are proposed to ensure better medical facilities at reasonable rates to the public ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some States and Union Territories have already enacted legislation to regulate the functioning of private hospitals and nursing homes. At some places, the municipalities register and licence nursing homes and are responsible for regulation of theii functioning.

(c) and (d) 'Health' being a State subject, it is for each State Govern' ment to supervise/regulate the provi sion of medical facilities in the Statf including the functioning of privau hospitals and nursing homes.

Constitution of a Committee to Review the Nickle contents in Chocolates

1106. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : DR. BAPU KALDATE :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the composition of the Committee set up by Government to review the percentage of nickle present in the chocolates manufactured in the country;

(b) whether the Committee has submitted its report to Government;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof stating the nickle contents found in the Indian chocolates; how does it compare with the national/international standards; by what percentage the nickle contents exceed the limits prescribed, if any; and

(d) the action taken by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) the members of the Committee are :—

1. Dr. S.K. Kashyap *Chairman*
   Director,
   National Institute of Occupational Health,
   Ahmedabad

2. The Director (Food & Agriculture) or Nominee, Bureau of Indian Standards,
   New Delhi

3. The Director or Nominee,
   Industrial Toxicology Research Centre,
   Lucknow